well-established tradition, there was substituted an insurrection of the proletariat with no precedent to guide its course except the French Revolution.

The evidence on which I base the foregoing conclusions as to the causes of the revolution, is drawn almost exclusively from official reports which I have in my possession. It was not a sudden and unexpected eruption of a mountain that had given no warning or shown no symptoms of disturbance. Every visitor to Russia from 1915 onwards heard the rumbling and felt the ground trembling under his feet. Here are extracts from a letter which I received in November, 1915, from Sir Ian Malcolm, who was then *Sir Tan* ^ Conservative M.P. for Croydon. He was

* touring Russia from North to South in connection with the Red Gross :—

" . . . I don't think the seriousness of the social situation here *can* be exaggerated : it is perfectly frightful. Where shall I begin? Food and fuel are already becoming extinct commodities : of the latter, which consists entirely of wood, our Embassy (among others) and many manufacturing houses have not nearly enough to last them through the winter and don't know where to turn for more. Food is exorbitantly high and the richest are beginning to feel it. . . .

Besides the existing corruption in

high
places and apparent indifference among the middle classes, there lies the further complicating problem : about 400,000 refugees from Poland and the Baltic provinces, and an immense aggregation of soldiers, centred in the capital—over a million new inhabitants in the last 12 months, less food than in